

09/980236

J003 Rec'd PCT/TTD 29 NOV 2001

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Not yet assigned
Filing Date: Herewith
Applicant: Sandbach, et al.
Title: MANUAL INPUT APPARATUS AND PROCESSOR
Attorney Docket: 9637-000036

Box PCT
Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant herewith submits this Preliminary Amendment to the application filed herewith, for consideration prior to the calculation of the filing fee, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 3 – 4, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, 15 – 16, and 20 – 23 in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

3. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing device is a hand-held computer, a mobile telephone or portable audio equipment.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is

09600236 12304
T05221 96203660

connected to said electronic processor device by a connection means.

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said connections means is configured so as to retain said electronic processing device connected thereto during the bending operations.

8. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus according to claim 4 and a portable electronic processing device in combination, wherein said connection means connecting said apparatus to said processing device is foldable to allow said processing device and said apparatus to be mutually arranged in an operational configuration in which said processing device is supported in a position spaced apart from said input apparatus, and to be reconfigured to a wrapped configuration, in which said device is enveloped by said input apparatus, by the steps of

folding said connecting means about a first axis to an intermediate position in which said processor device is received on a surface said apparatus, and

bending said apparatus about a second and a third axis, non-parallel with said first axis.

10. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination according to claim 8, wherein said second and third axis are disposed in a substantially parallel relationship to one another.

11. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8, wherein said second and said third bending axis divide the detector into a central portion, a first lateral substantially planar portion and a second lateral substantially planar portion.

15. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 8, wherein, in said intermediate position, said processor is operable independently of said input apparatus.

16. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein said device is supported on a self-erecting support mechanism in said operational configuration.

20. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus according to claim 1 and a portable electronic processing device in combination, wherein said apparatus is permanently attached to an edge of said processor device and configured to allow mutual arrangement in an operable configuration, in which the input apparatus extends from said edge of said processor, and reconfiguration into a wrapped configuration in which said input apparatus is wrapped around said processor device.

21. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 2, wherein said input

apparatus is constructed from fabric.

22. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 2, wherein said input apparatus comprises a membrane keyboard.

23. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in claim 2, wherein said keyboard surface is configured so as to facilitate the bending of the keyboard.

REMARKS

Claims 3 – 4, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, 15 – 16, and 20 – 23 have been amended. Claims 1 – 2, 5 – 6, 9, 12 – 14, 17 – 19 and 24 remain unchanged. After acceptance of this Amendment, Claims 1 through 24 will remain pending in the current application. The purpose of this preliminary amendment is to clarify language and remove multiple dependent claims from the application to reduce filing costs. Consideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Nov 29, 2001

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600

By: Gregory A. Stobbs
Gregory A. Stobbs, Reg. No. 28764
Attorney for Applicant

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

3. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim[s] 1 [or 2], wherein said processing device is a hand-held computer, a mobile telephone or portable audio equipment.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 3], wherein said apparatus is connected to said electronic processor device by a connection means.

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any of] claim[s] 4 [to 6], wherein said connections means is configured so as to retain said electronic processing device connected thereto during the bending operations.

8. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus according to [any of] claim[s] 4 [to 7] and a portable electronic processing device in combination, wherein said connection means connecting said apparatus to said processing device is foldable to allow said processing device and said apparatus to be mutually arranged in an operational configuration in which said processing device is supported in a position spaced apart from said input apparatus, and to be reconfigured to a wrapped configuration, in which said device is enveloped by said input apparatus, by the steps of folding said connecting means about a first axis to an intermediate position in

09900236-122904
FOIA b7 - d220660

which said processor device is received on a surface said apparatus, and
bending said apparatus about a second and a third axis, non-parallel with said
first axis.

10. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable
electronic processing device in combination [as claimed in] according to claim 8 [or 9],
wherein said second and third axis are disposed in a substantially parallel relationship
to one another.

11. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable
electronic processing device in combination as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 8 [to 10],
wherein said second and said third bending axis divide the detector into a central
portion, a first lateral substantially planar portion and a second lateral substantially
planar portion.

15. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable
electronic processing device in combination as claimed in [any of] claim 8 [to 14],
wherein, in said intermediate position, said processor is operable independently of said
input apparatus.

16. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic
processing device in combination as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 11 [to 15], wherein said

device is supported on a self-erecting support mechanism in said operational configuration.

20. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus according to [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 7] and a portable electronic processing device in combination, wherein said apparatus is permanently attached to an edge of said processor device and configured to allow mutual arrangement in an operable configuration, in which the input apparatus extends from said edge of said processor, and reconfiguration into a wrapped configuration in which said input apparatus is wrapped around said processor device.

21. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 2 [to 25], wherein said input apparatus is constructed from fabric.

22. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 2 [to 25], wherein said input apparatus comprises a membrane keyboard.

23. (Amended) A manually operable input apparatus and a portable electronic processing device in combination as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 2 [to 25], wherein said keyboard surface is configured so as to facilitate the bending of the keyboard.